

Drive, Stay & Play

You don't need to go far to get away! *By Stacy Dreyfus*

Where can you spa, golf, relax and rejuvenate—all without paying mucho bucks, avoiding an airline and the stress of missing connecting flights? For a weekend getaway close to home we've found luxe travel havens that make for the perfect two or three day escape with your sweetheart or girlfriends. The magic is that these places and packages are all within a two to three hour drive from the Windy City!

<< THE ABBEY RESORT Fontana, Wisconsin

The newly renovated (\$40 million may we add) Abbey Resort is a true getaway that stirs the imagination, refreshes the soul and opens the mind. It's set on 90 acres of lush land, including a 407-slip marina set on beautiful Lake Geneva, an extravagant 35,000-square-foot spa and three championship golf courses all within 15 minutes from the resort. Lace up your golf shoes and choose between the Arnold Palmer Course, The Gary Player Course or Lee Trevino Course. Try one or all of the 54-hole, par 72 challenges.

The Abbey includes 334 spacious lake house-inspired guestrooms and suites that have resort, pool or harbor side views, along with spacious suites with fireplaces that are available.

Tip: Ask for the three-night Summer Package which offers a low rate of just \$149 a night. Then take advantage of all the fitness, adventure excursions, spa treatments and nutritious eats the resort offers. Great for couples and groups! Two hours northwest of Chicago. www.TheAbbeyResort.com

THE DELAFIELD Delafield, Wisconsin



For those seeking a luxury hotel including wellness, fitness and a golf experience all packaged together, The Delafield is the place to seek out. Deemed the Midwest's only Small Luxury Hotel of the World (by the eponymous international organization that carefully selects hotels that exhibit a high level of personal service, style and sophistication) the resort combines these features within a boutique colonial-inspired hotel that exudes the beauty of old America.

While there, enjoy a tee time at one of the country's hottest new golf courses, Erin Hills, rated by Golf magazine as "Best New Course of the Year" this past January. Or take advantage

of their recently opened 44,000-square-foot Be Fitness & Wellness Center that offers fitness facilities and spa services. Or simply take a stroll around town. The charming town of Delafield offers an upscale mix of retail stores, as well as a furniture maker, a cozy coffee house and an old-world tavern.

Tip: Ask for the Stay & Play Golf Packages that range from \$450 to \$850. Two hours northwest of Chicago. www.TheDelafieldHotel.com

DESTINATION KOHLER Kohler, Wisconsin

Escape to where village charm meets old-world elegance. Destination Kohler is home to The American Club, the Midwest's only AAA Five Diamond resort providing unique, exquisite décor, 240 charming accommodations including suites and luxurious amenities.

The Destination Kohler Resort offers championship golf at Whistling Straits and Blackwolf Run golf venues, a world-class spa at the Kohler Waters Spa including 21 treatments (must-have treatments: the Rain Water Experience or the new Aquatonic treatment), pool, tennis, group fitness, a salon and incredible places to shop and dine all depending on your choice of palate.

Tip: Ask for the Bubbles & Bubbly Package. It includes your room accommodation, extraordinary spa specials along with a gift of sparkling wine and signature champagne flutes. Prices start at \$278. Two and ½ hours north of Chicago. www.aKohlerExperience.com

THE EAGLE RIDGE RESORT & SPA Galena, Illinois

The resort and facilities are spread out on the 6,800-acre stunning Galena Territory which includes rolling hills, hiking trails, four great golf courses (The General is Illinois' second highest ranked course after Cog Hill) and the 228-acre Lake Galena, a haven for boating and fishing. Horseback riding and hot ballooning are activities you won't find at many other places in the Midwest. Canoes, paddleboats and pontoon boats are available for rent too.

The Eagle Ridge Inn offers 80 country-style rooms along with 300 private villas, condominiums and homes available for rental. The resort operates eight food and beverage outlets where guests can enjoy everything from snacks and deli sandwiches to prime steaks, chops, cocktails, wines and seafood. The Stonedrift Spa offers every indulgence, including wet rooms with Vichy and Tsunami showers.

Tip: Ask for the BFF (Best Friends Forever) package. The seasons may change but best friends are forever! The resort will customize and create a memorable "chick-centric" getaway which would include your specific accommodations for up to eight friends with welcome goodies, a "Chick-flick" movie and surprise, a three-course meal, treatments in the luxurious Stonedrift Spa, private party on a pontoon boat and more! Prices based on availability. Or, opt for the Rest & Relaxation Package, a two-day, one-night package that includes breakfast and a 50 minute Swedish massage; rates start at \$175. Three hours west of Chicago. www.EagleRidgeResortonline.com. Happy travels! ■

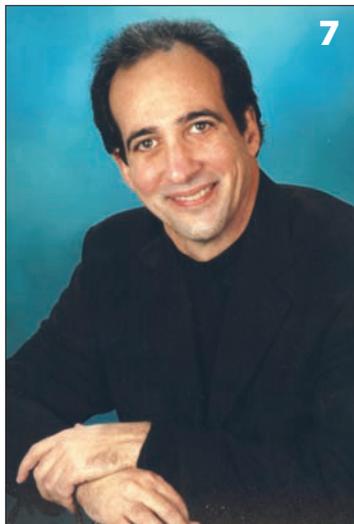


(opposite, right) The Abbey Resort includes 334 spacious lake house-inspired guestrooms and suites that have resort, pool or harbor side views. (opposite, left) The boutique Delafield resort is a colonial-inspired hotel that exudes the beauty of old America. (top) Destination Kohler boasts The American Club, the Midwest's only AAA Five Diamond resort along with famous championship golf courses. (bottom) Galena's Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa features the luxe Stonedrift Spa and elegant rooms.



Hotell/travel writer Stacy Dreyfus is the president of Orchid Worldwide, a sales, marketing & partnership agency.

Contributors



1. **BRIDGET ALBERT**, a fourth-generation “woman behind the bar,” is presently Master Mixologist at Southern Wine and Spirits of Illinois and Director of the Academy of Spirits and Fine Service, a program for bartenders that covers the history of all spirits and pre-prohibition cocktails. She is also Chairman of the United States Bartenders Guild (USBG)-Illinois chapter. She has won numerous awards and honorable mentions in U.S.B.G. and Bellagio classic cocktail competitions. She has been featured in Bartenders Magazine, Chicago Sun-Times, Time Out Chicago Magazine, Fox News Chicago, NBC5 Taste, and Food Network Iron Chef America, to name a few. She resides in the suburbs of Chicago with her husband, Jamie, and daughter, Paige. Read her article on page 78.

2. A Chicago native, star sommelier **BELINDA CHANG** joined the Cenitare corporate team upon its formation and has been instrumental in developing the company’s philosophy of wine and service. Belinda’s effervescent personality and salesmanship have also been well-received in the dining rooms she has overseen, including Fifth Floor in San Francisco and Charlie Trotter’s, Osteria Via Stato and Enoteca at Osteria Via Stato in Chicago (with executive chef Rick Tramonto). Read her guest column on page 80.

3. Travel maven **STACY DREYFUS** has worked in the hotel and hospitality industry in New York City and relocated to Chicago last year (former companies include Le Parker Meridien, Ian Schrager Hotels and Hotel Gansevoort). Currently, Stacy is in her second successful year of running her own boutique sales, marketing and partnership agency Orchid Worldwide (www.OrchidWorldwide.com) which currently boasts Winvian, Kamalame Cay, Pure Escapes in Kauai, Maui, Jackson Hole, along with various other clients such as BlackBook Magazine and Boutique Hotels & Resorts International. See where Stacy’s favorite nearby Getaways on page 76.

4. **GAIL SUSSMAN MILLER**, of Inspired Choice, teaches women ‘solo-preneurs’ and corporate teams how to love business obstacles and overcome them with greater ease, less stress and more success. Gail offers individuals and groups a series of obstacle-busting and confidence-building workshops such as How to Love Networking. On page 42, Gail explores life-long learning and self-enrichment. What it is, its value to you for all areas of your life, and how to get started.

5. **JENNY HADFIELD** is a columnist for Health Magazine and co-author of the best-selling *Marathonng for Mortals* and the newly released *Running for Mortals – A Commonsense Plan For Changing Your Life Through Running*. She is a nationally recognized speaker and co-owner of Chicago Endurance Sports where she hosts Learn to Run Training Programs for new runners. To learn more about the Learn To Run Training Programs in Chicago visit www.ChicagoEnduranceSports.com. You can find more information on Coach Jenny and her books at www.Jenny-Hadfield.com. Get Jenny’s Running Tips on page 61.

6. **DIANA MIREL** has been a magazine writer and editor in Chicago for more than six years, writing about a variety of subjects ranging from interior décor and art to careers, health and beauty issues for publications like Shelter Interiors, Complete Woman and Nurses Lounge-Chicago. She enjoys learning about new subjects and bringing them to life in articles. Diana gets the lowdown on laser hair removal on page 48.

7. **GARY SCHOLAR** is a nationally recognized Health & Wellness Consultant and is the Health & Wellness Consultant for the employees of the American Hospital Association. Prior to creating employee health and wellness programs, Gary taught at the University of Illinois, Chicago on an NIH grant to lower the severity of multiple chronic illnesses. Gary is also a children’s book author on self-esteem titled *Angora, I’m Knot Just Fluff I’m Always Enough!* www.AngoraTheBunny.com. Gary is currently seeking funding for a local weekly television series focusing on rising above dysfunctional jobs to help others. Contact Gary at 773.248.6779. Read his important article on toxic work environments on page 55. ■